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# Homo Homini Lupus – Between Conflict and Cooperation: Editorial

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“Against each Other” and “Together” – these are the extremes of a highly variable continuum of behaviour many animals display. Both strategies are also deeply rooted in human evolution and adaptation, in terms of biology as well as culture. A wide scope of actions to choose from allows us to adequately deal with inter- and intra-specific conflicts and to achieve common goals in cooperation.

Anthropology, bringing together approaches from the bio-, social- and cultural sciences to form a broad perspective on spatial and temporal variability of humankind, greatly contributes to understanding human behaviour between conflict and cooperation.

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the Society of Anthropology (Gesellschaft für Anthropologie GfA) focused on this prominent socio-political topic. Case studies and theories from archaeological, forensic and historical research have been presented within the biological and ethological framework (50 podium presentations and 19 posters ([https://gfa-anthropologie.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Abstractband\\_GfA.pdf](https://gfa-anthropologie.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Abstractband_GfA.pdf))).

A multitude of topics, approaches and applied methods demonstrated the many facets of conflict and cooperation in human groups. Connections became apparent, contributing to a complex understanding of this area of research. The main topic of the conference was supported by contributions to methodological advances in anthropology and results of current research.

Some of the presented contributions were collected as papers and can hereby be published as Special Issue in the Anthropologischer Anzeiger 76/3 2019.

Anne Böckler, *Why we share our cookies: Prosocial behavior from a psychological perspective* provides an introduction about how prosocial decisions and behavior are formed from the perspective of neuroscience and psy-

chology. The article also gives insights into the affective and cognitive processes when we decide to act in an altruistic way, and how prosocial behavior may be learned and trained (Böckler 2019: 181–194).

Christa Sütterlin, *Culture by Nature. Familial roots of ambivalent human social behavior and its cultural extensions in large-scale societies. A contribution of Human and Cultural Ethology* discusses the implication of the historical and present changes of human societies from smaller kinship-based groups with a high level of familiarity to larger groups with increasing anonymity. The article demonstrates how tools like social norms and customs, symbols and rituals were introduced to enhance the social cohesion of larger groups, and to demarcate a group's autonomy and territory against outsiders (Sütterlin 2019: 195–210).

Chiara Gabriella Maddalena Girotto, Tina Jakob, *The influence of war on population-based fracture distribution patterns: An example from medieval England* presents an assessment of markers of interpersonal violence of a very large sample of medieval skeletons to test, if differing patterns of injuries from violent acts may provide insights into the behaviour of different social strata in a society (Girotto & Jakob 2019: 211–215).

Andreas Duering, *Modelling massacres. The agent-based modelling of catastrophic events using skeletal data from archaeological excavations* discusses the demographic differences between a “normal” attritional cemetery that mirrors deaths by natural causes, and “catastrophic” death assemblages caused by violent events like massacres. The presentation introduced the use of the Population & Cemetery Simulator (PCS) software as a computer-based tool to model and understand the formative background of a cemetery (Duering 2019: 217–221).

Loukas Konstantinou, *Child abuse – Animal abuse. There is no biological necessity* discusses the phenomenon of

needless cruelty against animals and children, that is often, but not always connected to psychopathological behaviour. Both, but especially cruelty against animals, may be culturally sanctioned and even encouraged as demonstration of dominance, although a biological need seems to be absent (Konstantinou 2019: 223–231).

Gisela Grupe, Michael Marx, Pia-Maria Schellerer, Jan Bemann, Ursula Brosseder, Chimiddorj Yeruul-Erdene, Jamiyan-Ombo Gantulga, *Bioarchaeology of Bronze and Iron Age skeletal finds from a microregion in Central Mongolia* reports about the state-of-the art research on an early pastoral and nomadic population with regard to life-style and diet, from a region and period from where we have only scarce anthropological data so far (Grupe et al. 2019: 233–243).

Felix Engel, Stefan Schlager, *RDFBones – making research explicit: an extensible digital standard for research data* presents the inherent problems with attempts to achieve digital documentation standards for anthropological data in general and osteological data in particular. This results in a lack of easily comparable data. The authors propose a modular framework of standardized digital documentation that may be customized to different needs, while still providing the possibility to compare different data sets (Engel & Schlager 2019: 245–257).

Kristina Scheelen-Nováček, Katharina Stötzl, Michael Schultz, *Vestiges of autopsies and surgical procedures in the “Baron von Asch” skulls of the Blumenbach Skull Collection in Göttingen* presents results of the anthropological and palaeopathological analysis of the skull collection assembled in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century AD. It gives interesting insights into surgical and also autoptic methods of that time (Scheelen-Nováček et al. 2019: 259–273).

Carsten Niemitz, *The present ecological situation of mankind – analysis and consequences* closes the volume with a meta-analysis of human willingness to co-exist and cooperate with others – the environment as a whole. The extensive study based on official data unfortunately does not draw a very optimistic picture with regard to human thoughtfulness and self-restriction, and demonstrates very well that “conflict or cooperation” is much bigger than strife or peace between human individuals (Niemitz 2018: 275–292).

While collecting the manuscripts in time and finding willing peer-reviewers for the wide array of topics proved difficult, the result reflects the many facets of anthropological research about an important social and ethical topic as demonstrated during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the

Society of Anthropology (Gesellschaft für Anthropologie GfA). It is desirable that further meetings of the GfA will be motivated to produce like proceedings volumes.

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